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STUMBLING BLOCKS

Footpath audit uncovers 219 obstacles across city; Outer Ring Road, Sarjapur Road record highest number of obstacles

PAGE 2

COST OF A RIDE

BMRCL officials indicate that company is considering revision of fare in keeping with its financial requirements

PAGE 5

Labour activists, citizens, doctors speak about multiple issues with 24/7 operations of commercial establishments related to workers' rights, law & order and health

WORK LIFE IMBALANCE

Notification by Labour Dept sparks lively debate in city

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The Labour Department issued a notification last week in line with the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1961, allowing all shops and commercial establishments with 10 or more employees to operate 24/7 throughout the year, to stimulate economic activity and provide convenience to customers. A similar order was previously issued on January 2, 2021. Labour activists have put forth their concerns regarding the notification which they caution could make room for workers' exploitation, while citizens are wary of law and order issues.

According to the notification, "women employees shall not be required to work beyond 8 pm, unless an employer obtains written consent from the employee, allowing her to work between 8 pm and 6 am". In such cases, employers are obligated to ensure the protection of the employee's dignity, honour, and safety. Transport arrangements for women working shifts are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

"In the name of freedom, women are compelled to work at night. Consent taken from women workers to be employed at night would actually be an unfree choice

—Avani Chokshi, AICCTU

Not on the cards

Over 2.5 lakh ineligible BPL, Antyodaya cards identified in Bengaluru

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Using advanced software, the Department of Food and Civil Supplies has identified 22,62,413 ineligible Below Poverty Line (BPL)/ Antyodaya cards across Karnataka, with Bengaluru accounting for 2,54,286 of these cards. All identified ineligible cards will be converted to Above Poverty Line (APL) cards.

The department has mandated that these ineligible ration cards be canceled within 10 days, and updates on the progress must be submitted daily via a designated Google Drive. Once the verification process is complete, a detailed report will be sent to the central office, as per the instructions issued by the Commissioner of the Department to joint directors and deputy directors across the state.

Violations of government standards

The department had sought assistance from the e-Governance Center to track ineligible ration cards. Of the total identified, 10,54,368 cards belong to individuals earning more than 1.20 lakh annually, violating government-set standards for BPL cardholders. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 76.04% of rural areas and 49.36% of urban areas should receive BPL cards. However, the state has issued 1,16,51,209 BPL cards for 3,93,29,981 people, resulting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Doll exhibition

Explore a unique doll exhibition on Sri Rama Katha Darshana, presented by the Acharyas—Aparna and Sreenath Acharya. The multiple facets of this epic are being depicted through a colourful array of dolls during the auspicious Sharad Navarathri celebrations at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. For the Acharya's, the Gombe Habba is a much-awaited annual festival. **Where: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; When: Until October 12, 11 am to 1 pm; 3 pm to 5:30 pm**

02 Comic play

Kriyative Theatre presents 'Moog Masala', a play that is sure to have you rolling in splits of laughter. Directed by Joseph Jon, the play is based on a short story written by the famous Malayalam writer, Vaikom Mohammed Bashir. It revolves around a variety of responses to a man's nose. Come, watch the play to believe the infinite possibilities of what a long nose can represent and the ways in which it can be put to use.
Where: Rangashankara, JP Nagar
When: October 6, 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm

03 Warm tribute

Join in for a tribute evening celebrating the life of Bali, one of Bengaluru's most consistent musicians for over 4 decades, who performed, composed, and touched the lives of other musicians and artists. A group of his friends are coming together to express their love for Bali through sharing their feelings, talents, and shared memories in song, storytelling, poetry, pictures, and more. **Where: Urban Solace**
When: October 5, 6 pm to 10 pm

Obstacles galore in path of B'luru's pedestrians

BLR Footpath Challenge uncovers 219 obstacles across city; with 110, ORR, Sarjapur Road recorded highest number of obstacles

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Nearly 70 people participated in the 10-km run on Wednesday; (inset) footpath ratings

After a footpath audit, volunteers are out with the result: Across 100 km of Bengaluru's footpaths, a staggering 219 obstacles have been identified. These are findings of the BLR Footpath Challenge, an effort that was initiated by citizens to make the city more pedestrian-friendly. Nearly 70 people, from ages 9 years to the elderly, completed a 10 km run exclusively on the city's footpaths, starting and finishing at Mahatma Gandhi Park on MG Road on the final day of the BLR Footpath Challenge on Wednesday.

The initiative started on September 15 was a tribute to both Visvesvaraya and Gandhi, who were known for their walking habits. Led by Arun Pai of Bengaluru Walks, this initiative encouraged people to rate footpaths based on their walkability. The 10K run aimed to test the public's ability to navigate these footpaths, penalising runners who leave the path due to obstacles.

Colour-coded rating tells the story

The colour rating system of this challenge includes: black (indicating no footpath), red (fully blocked or damaged), orange (many large obstacles), purple (few small obstacles), and green (no obstacles). Participants walked and ran through these footpaths to identify areas that are obstacle-free, with the ultimate goal of creating a safer, more walkable city for all. Pai believes that many problems can be solved if officials step onto the streets and experience the same challenges as citizens.

Sharing his surprise at the turnout for the challenge, Pai told BM, "I had expected only a few athletes to participate, but to my surprise, nearly 70 people joined. After the run, we asked everyone to sign the board and mark how many obstacles they encountered while running 10 km on the footpath. Fifty participants reported finding between zero and five obstacles."

Major revelations

The challenge revealed significant obstacles across various areas. The Central Business District (CBD) and Cantonment areas reported 26 obstacles, earning a green rating, indicating no major footpath issues.

The ORR and Sarjapur Road recorded the highest number of obstacles at 110, leading to an orange-red rating, signifying many large obstacles. The KR Puram to ITPL Main Road had 20 obstacles, and the Lalbagh and RV Road areas saw 17 obstacles, both receiving a green rating. Meanwhile, Koramangala, Intermediate Ring Road (IRR), Inner Ring Road (INR) areas saw 46 obstacles, resulting in a yellow rating, pointing to moderate footpath challenges.

Quick clearance

During the recent challenge, obstacles were quickly removed in key areas such as KR Puram to Singayyanapalya, Leela Palace to ISRO Junction, Yamalur on Old Airport Road to Divya Hub, and near ORR from Intel towards Bellandur. TV Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Aarin Capital Partners, cited the need for an integrated action plan and said, "The biggest challenge is the lack of interaction between government and citizens. Citizens must demand better planned infrastructure from the government, and planners must have a better vision for building such infrastructure. There is no one solution that can make traffic better, but a combination of better planning, infrastructure, footpaths, etc. Cities today need an overall plan with a vision of improvement over the next five years."

70+ vendors evicted from Church Street footpaths

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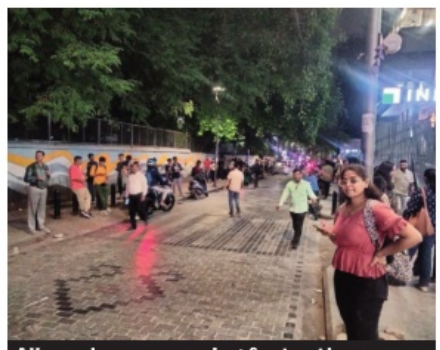
Ere's some good news for pedestrians and those who want to visit Church Street on weekends. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) team of officials along with police on Friday evicted around 70 street vendors who were occupying the footpaths on Church Street.

All these years, pedestrians used to struggle to navigate through these footpaths, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, as most of the space used to be occupied by vendors. Moreover, the residents complained that they were not able to take out their vehicles as the vendors would park their vehicles in front of their homes and entrances of residential apartments. A resident appreciated this move and said, "We are not against street vendors eking out livelihood but could not afford them to occupy footpaths and all the space available on Church Street. On weekends, all types of vendors come to Church Street, thus causing a lot of inconvenience for us."



All vendors occupying footpaths on Church Street were evicted on Friday

Brahmananda Reddy, vice president of Rest House Road Welfare Association, said, "The street vendors were not only a nuisance but also incurring loss to the businessmen here. I want the BBMP and the police to keep a vigil on the street vendors in the future."

Another resident pleading anonymity said the BBMP authorities should not allow any kind of encroachment on the Church Street footpaths. "I want the vendors to respect the pedestrians by leaving sufficient space for them to walk on the footpaths. There are some vendors, including hotels, occupying footpaths during the weekdays. I want the authorities to act tough against those occupying footpaths and thus causing inconvenience to the pedestrians," the resident said.

The BBMP's Zonal Commissioner (East) Snehal R, said, "We want footpaths free from all types of encroachments. Footpaths are meant for pedestrians and certainly not for vendors."

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Headmasters told to submit application for free power

Commissioner of School Education has directed government schools to apply for free electricity, this move is welcomed by activists as it will enable use of computers and smart class facilities

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Computer lab at a governmentt school in Bengaluru

The Commissioner of School Education has issued a circular directing headmasters of government schools to submit applications to the electricity supply companies (Escoms) for the supply of electricity free of cost. "All headmasters should complete the process of submitting applications for free electricity by October 10. The headmasters have to avail the copy of acknowledgement and keep it safely," the circular read.

Right to Education (RTE) activists have welcomed this move, stating that restoring electricity to the government schools will help teachers and students to use computers and avail smart class facilities. The RTE activists and social workers have claimed that the materials for conducting smart classes remain idle at many government high schools due to a lack of electricity. "I have been associated with government schools at Sidlaghatta Taluk, where more than 10 government schools have no electricity, so the teachers and students cannot use computers. Some of the schools have electricity but have no funds to take up repair work or replace damaged electric wires and equipment," said Jayaram Satish, an RTE activist.

Many corporate companies have provided equipment for conducting smart classes at government schools under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. "It is painful to come across such equipment lying idle due to lack of electricity," he said.

Ramesh, headmaster of Government High School, Goramadu, Sidlaghatta Taluk, said the school used to pay Rs 800 for two to three months towards electricity bills. "We used to use the school grants allocated by the government to pay the electricity bill. Now, we can use the amount for the development of the school," said the headmaster. Expressing a similar opinion, Manjula Devi, headmistress of Government High School, Palicherlu in Sidlaghatta Taluk, said that she used to pay Rs 200 to Rs 300 per month towards the electricity bill. "The government's initiative to supply electricity free of charge will be a significant help for our school. We have been conducting smart classes for the benefit of students," she said.

> **"Headmasters and other teachers play a vital role in ensuring that benefits of this initiative are fully realised**
> – Nagasimha GR, Child Rights Trust

A RTE activist, pleading anonymity, said that many people are of the opinion that government schools do not require electricity as classes are conducted during the day. "There are a few government schools that have no school development committees, which are supposed to take up development work at the respective schools. The grants allocated to high schools are insufficient," said the activist. Terming this initiative a commendable move, Nagasimha G Rao of the Child Rights Trust said to maximise its impact, efficient utilisation of this resource is crucial. "Headmasters and other teachers play a vital role in ensuring that the benefits of this initiative are fully realised. The education department should also develop a robust monitoring system to track energy consumption and ensure that the initiative is meeting its intended objectives," he said.

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Statue installed

JP Nagar

A Swami Vivekananda statue is installed at Nataraj Park, JP Nagar. Authorities should add details about his life and teachings on the podium.

Panel removed

RV Road

A BESCOM panel obstructing pedestrian movement near RV Road has been promptly removed after the issue was highlighted in these columns.

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Over 22 lakh ineligible cards in Karnataka

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in an excess of 14 lakh cards beyond the prescribed limit. Consequently, the department is converting these ineligible BPL cards to APL cards, though none will be outright canceled at this stage. A senior official from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies confirmed that this is not the final list, as additional ineligible cards will be identified and verified in subsequent phases.

What are ineligible cards?

An official said, "Ineligible ration cards are flagged based on various data sources. These include income tax records provided for bank loans, declarations of family members earning over ₹1.20 lakh annually, income certificates for children, and income details provided during the addition of new names to ration cards. Additionally, information from PAN and Aadhaar cards, when linked with family ID cards, is also used to identify ineligible BPL cardholders."

What makes a cardholder ineligible?

The department has laid out 14 specific criteria for ineligibility, which include owning a car, earning an annual income above ₹1.20 lakh, paying income tax, owning more than 7.5 acres of dry or irrigated land, working in either funded or non-funded schools or colleges, being contractors or employed in industries, and owning fuel-powered two-wheelers or three-wheelers with an engine capacity over 100cc (except for one personal auto-rickshaw). These criteria aim to ensure that only genuinely eligible individuals retain BPL and Antyodaya cards, while those who do not meet the requirements are moved to APL status. "As the verification process unfolds, Bengaluru residents are urged to ensure that their cards meet the eligibility criteria to avoid disruption in their access to government-subsidized benefits," an official added.

Pothole fixed

Vasanth Nagar

The pothole near the manhole at 6th Cross, Vasanth Nagar, was swiftly repaired after it was reported in these columns.

Students lead dengue awareness campaign

In light of the rising number of dengue cases in Bengaluru, first-year students from Mount Carmel College's BSc programme have launched a door-to-door awareness campaign in Indiranagar. The initiative, part of their Community Development Programme, aims to educate residents about dengue prevention and highlight the dangers of the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the primary vector for dengue and other viral diseases.

Cleaning and drying containers by regularly emptying them is highly important

The students covered various areas over two days, reaching out to residents and workers across multiple crosses of Indiranagar. Myra V Biswas, one of the participating students, shared insights on the campaign, "We surveyed people on the crosses of Indiranagar. We spoke to shopkeepers and some students from our institutions. We also interacted with people ranging from auto drivers, and food stall keepers, to social workers."

On the second day, the team expanded their reach to include local apartments and security guards. "Along with interacting, we suggested some precautions to the public to prevent the spread of dengue and breeding of mosquitoes responsible for the disease," Myra added.

Some of the key prevention measures include clearing stagnant water from around homes, public areas, and workplaces to stop mosquito breeding. Wearing protective clothing by using long sleeves and trousers , in addition to using moquito nets at night, will prevent mosquito bites.

With an incubation period of 5-7 days after a bite, dengue cases can escalate fast, making community awareness essential.

Assault case probe leads police to drug network

Photos of banned drug on phone of men picked up for assault help uncover larger network of crime

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

The prescription tablet seen in a photo on the phone turned out to be an anti-psychotropic drug that is banned in India

"We discovered that Santhosh used to purchase these tablets from a medical store and consumed them in large quantities to mimic the effects of narcotics –DCP East D Devaraj

A routine investigation into an assault involving a 33-year-old man and his father after a thwarted bike theft attempt in Shampura on Monday, led the DJ Halli police to a drug racket. What initially appeared to be an inquiry into a violent altercation soon exposed a criminal network tied to narcotics. This breakthrough led to the arrest of five individuals involved in the assault, as well as the seizure of illegal substances from a medical store in Electronic City. The accused were using prescription tablets as narcotic substitutes, resulting in further arrests and a significant drug bust.

The DJ Halli police on Monday arrested five men —Syed Saad, Usman Khan, Syed Salman, Praveen, and Santosh—who were involved in an assault on Arun Kumar and his father. The men turned violent when Arun Kumar foiled their attempt to steal his bike, which was parked outside his workplace in Shampura.

The confrontation escalated when Arun snatched the key from the accused, who retaliated by attacking him with a knife and threatening to set his bike on fire. The attackers even assaulted Arun's father, Kalyani, who tried to intervene. After escaping the scene, both father and son sought medical treatment and filed a complaint with the police.

Later that evening, the accused returned to Arun Kumar, attacking him again for reporting the incident to the police. They vandalised his bike and damaged a BBMP-installed CCTV camera to destroy evidence. The police, acting promptly on Arun's complaint, tracked down the assailants and arrested them.

Drug racket uncovered

During interrogation, photos of prescription tablets were found on one of the accused's phones. "We found a photo of an accused with white tablets. Upon further inquiry we discovered that Santhosh used to purchase these tablets from a medical store and consumed them in large quantities to mimic the effects of narcotics," said DCP East D Devaraj.

It was discovered that these white tablets were anti-psychotropic drugs whose production, manufacturing, sale, purchase, transport, storage, and consumption is prohibited under The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) in India.

Contraband seized

This led the DJ Halli police to raid a medical store in Electronic City, where they seized these tablets. "The Drug Control Department has been informed, and further investigations are underway," added DCP East, emphasising the efforts to trace the origins of these illegal drug activities.

The accused have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including damage to public property, causing hurt with dangerous weapons, criminal intimidation, and mischief aimed at endangering life. They have been remanded to judicial custody, while investigations continue into the drug trafficking ring.

This arrest reveals how pharmaceutical drugs are being misused as recreational drugs, particularly in areas where local dealers target vulnerable people. There is a need for increased efforts to stop illegal activities that use legitimate businesses, like medical stores, to sell such drugs.

Namma Metro rides to become expensive

Last fare revision happened in 2017, and BMRCL now aims to increase fares by 15-20%

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Cuurently, the minimum fare at Namma Metro is Rs 10, while the maximum fare is Rs 60

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is considering a fare revision in the coming months. An official stated, "We need to manage loan repayments and interest payments. The Fare Fixation Committee will review all aspects before finalising any changes. Public opinion, customer affordability, and the sustainability of BMRCL will all be taken into account during the process. While BMRCL is currently operating at a profit, outstanding loans remain to be repaid. The last fare revision occurred in 2017, and the upcoming revision is expected to see an increase of 15-20%. Currently, the minimum fare is Rs 10, while the maximum is Rs 60."

BMRCL officials said that one of the compelling reasons to revise the Metro fare is the need for financial sustainability. "BMRCL has taken significant loans to fund its expansion projects and it still has large debts to repay. Fare revisions would help cover these repayments, including the interest; ensuring that BMRCL can continue to expand its network, maintain service quality, and upgrade infrastructure. Without adequate funding, the Metro may struggle to meet the demands of a growing city like Bengaluru, potentially compromising on essential services, safety measures, or new technology that can enhance commuter experience," said an official. Another reason for fare revision is inflation. Since the last fare hike in 2017, operational costs have likely risen due to inflation, increasing labour costs, fuel prices, and maintenance requirements. A fare adjustment in line with these increased costs would be necessary to balance BMRCL's finances. "Fare hikes are a common practice globally to maintain the standard and reliability of public transportation systems, and a reasonable increase could ensure that commuters continue to receive high-quality service without causing significant disruption to the corporation's financial stability," the official added.

However, commuters argue that the mass transport systems should not hike fares as it will affect customers. "On the other hand, revising the metro fare upwards could disproportionately affect daily commuters, especially those from lower-income groups. Many people rely on metro as an affordable and efficient means of transportation, and a fare hike could force them to look for cheaper alternatives, like overcrowded buses or private vehicles, which would not only add to traffic congestion, but also impact Bengaluru's environment with increased emissions," Satwik K, a college student said. Ramana Murthy, a senior citizen added, "Moreover, with rising living costs in the city, including housing and utilities, a metro fare hike could be an additional financial burden for commuters. Public opinion is crucial in this regard. If the increase is seen as unjustified or too steep, it may lead to a drop in ridership, which would ultimately hurt BMRCL's revenue. Keeping fares stable could encourage more ridership, which, in turn, could boost overall revenue through increased ticket sales rather than fare hikes."

iNTERVIEW | NICOLAS NAHUEL GROGLOPO, MUSICIAN

SPINNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

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At just 26, Nicolas Nahuel Groglopo, better known by his stage name Its Diorange, is making waves in the global music scene. Hailing from Gothenburg, Sweden (half Swedish half Argentinian), he dropped off from studying acting to pursue music. Despite facing early challenges, including three open-heart surgeries as a child, Nicolas remained determined to push past his limitations. "I didn't want to be treated differently," he explains. "I was stubborn and kept going."
In an exclusive interview, Nicolas talks about his rise to fame, his experience remixing Indian music, and his focus on original work. With a newly signed distribution label and collaborations with famed artists, Nicolas is ready to carve out his own space in the music industry.

Excerpts from the interview:

There's a bit of mystery around you. I first noticed your amazing remix of Kalakkatha (Malayalam movie track) on Instagram, but I couldn't find much about you beyond that you're Swedish. Can you tell us more about yourself?
Yeah, I'm from Sweden and currently live in Stockholm, though I grew up in Gothenburg on the West Coast. I moved to Stockholm about four years ago to study acting, but after a year, I decided to drop out. Music started to take over, and I felt I had to choose between continuing my studies or going all in with music. I chose music, and I've been doing it full-time for the past year.

What made you decide to remix Indian songs? There are so many people who react to Indian culture/food/movies online, but what drew you specifically to Indian music?
It started with my remix of the song Ali Ali (Nooran Sisters). When I posted it, it went viral on reels, and I noticed many of the views were coming from India. People started suggesting other Indian songs for me to remix, so I tried another one, and it also went viral. I realized there might be something here, so I started exploring more Indian music. While I'm riding the wave now, Indian remixes aren't my main focus it's just been fun seeing people enjoy them.

You've built a solid following on Instagram, Spotify, and TikTok, but like most artists, there's always a backstory to success. Could you share yours?
Yeah, for sure. Before my music took off, I was working as a bartender, in a clothing store, and even as a dishwasher. I had a routine where I'd spend part of the day in the studio making TikToks and reels, then work a shift, and return to the studio until midnight to catch the last train home. I did that every day for about two and a half years. It wasn't easy, and there were a lot of posts that didn't perform well. Going viral didn't happen overnight it took a lot of consistent work.

That's really inspiring. What were some challenges you faced when you started producing music and DJing?
The biggest challenge was figuring out what kind of music I wanted to make. I started with house music but experimented with different genres like pop and trap. It took a while for me to settle on house music as my main genre. There were a lot of ups and downs, and moments of self-doubt, but I always reminded myself why I love doing this it's because it's fun.

What's the story behind your stage name, Its Diorange?
The name comes from my hair! I have red-orange hair, and one day in the studio, my friend and I were brainstorming names. We thought of Orange but felt it was too simple. Then we came up with Its Diorange and liked the way it sounded. It was spontaneous, but it stuck, and now I can't imagine changing it.
That's amazing! How does your family feel about all of this, seeing you transition from working in a clothing store to playing in India?
They're super happy for me. They've always known I'm driven, so they're not too surprised, but they still think it's crazy that I'm touring. My mom, especially, is really proud.

Is there anything exciting coming up for you?
Yeah, I recently signed with a distribution label, so I'll be releasing a lot more music soon. I've also got collaborations lined up with some fabulous Indian artists, whose names I can't yet reveal. My next release is on the 25th of October!

How has your experience in India been so far?
India has been amazing! The nightlife here is so energetic, way different from what I'm used to in Sweden. People really come out to party, and the energy is next level. The hospitality has also been great everyone's been so helpful and friendly. Oh, and the food! I tried Vada Pav for the first time recently, and I loved it.

PIC COURTESY: AUGUST SANDBERG

Catch Its Diorange live on October 5 @ Secret Story, Indiranagar

Matthew Perry death: Doctor admits guilt

In a significant development related to the death of actor Matthew Perry, Dr Mark Chavez has pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges involving the distribution of ketamine.

The plea was entered during a court appearance in Los Angeles on October 2, according to E! News. Dr Chavez, a California physician, admitted to conspiring to distribute the powerful anaesthetic to Perry, who tragically passed away in October 2023 due to the "acute effects of ketamine," which ultimately led to his drowning in a hot tub, as revealed in an autopsy report released in December. Although Dr Chavez has reached a plea agreement with prosecutors, he faces a potential prison sentence of up to 10 years when he is scheduled for sentencing on April 2, 2025, according to E! News.

As part of the terms, he has surrendered his passport, remains out on bond, and has agreed to cease practicing medicine. Chavez is one of five individuals charged in connection with Perry's death.

The actor had openly struggled with addiction, and the court heard that Chavez operated a ketamine clinic and sold ketamine lotions to Dr Salvador Plasencia, who subsequently distributed them to Perry. The Department of Justice revealed that Plasencia and Chavez exchanged text messages discussing how much money they could persuade Perry to spend on ketamine.

—ANI

Scare tactics

Bhairadevi

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Shrijai
- **ACTORS** Radhika Kumaraswamy, Ramesh Aravind, Anu Prabhakar, Rangayana Raghu, Skanda Ashok
- **Duration** 134 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The much-awaited multilingual movie Bhairadevi has arrived at theaters. The movie had garnered big pre-release hype because of its star cast and budget. Director Shrijai has tried his best to scare the audiences using graphics and a creepy background score but has not succeeded completely in his mission.

The movie begins with Deputy Commissioner of Police Arvind (Ramesh Aravind) waking up from bed and asking his house help to get him a cup of coffee. Later, he gets a phone call from a teacher of a residential school, Lakshmi (Malavika Avinash), who tells him that his daughter Aditi is in depression. He also feels uncomfortable at home. Meanwhile, his driver Veeraiah (Rangayana Raghu) advises him to meet a guru in Varanasi. Both of them go to Varanasi and meet the guru (Shivram) who introduces them to the guru of aghoris (P Ravishankar) who asks his disciple Bhairadevi (Radhika Kumaraswamy) to accompany them to Bengaluru. The guru of aghoris asks Arvind to arrange accommodation for Bhairadevi at a burial ground in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, Bhairadevi comes to know that the actual problem is not with DCP's deceased wife Shalini (Anu Prabhakar) but his sister-in-law Aditi (Radhika Kumaraswamy). You have to watch the movie to know how Shalini and Aditi died and why Aditi wants revenge.

Radhika Kumaraswamy has played a double role and must be appreciated for coping with the heavy makeup and for shooting in tough circumstances such as in a burial ground. Ramesh Aravind, known as the hero of family audiences, plays a different role in the movie. It will be difficult for family audiences, especially for his fans and well-wishers, to see him playing such a vicious and malevolent character on the screen. Anu Prabhakar is convincing as an obedient and affectionate wife, lovely mother and caring sister. Rangayana Raghu provides comedy to break the monotonous narration. Malavika Avinash, Suchendra Prasad, Shivaram, Skanda Ashok have provided good support.

KK Senthil Prashant's music is good. The climax indicates a sequel to Bhairadevi.

Family audiences may watch the film, especially if they are interested in the lives of aghoris.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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FRUT

Devanahalli-Kolar highway expansion to drive connectivity and growth

North Bengaluru is set to get a big boost as several infrastructure projects are taking shape. Besides the Satellite Ring Road project, the State Government is planning to take up another key project to widen the Devanahalli-Vijayapura-Kolar highway. Key stretches of the highway are proposed to be converted into four/six lanes. Officials say that this road will play a vital role in the development of the area.

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said, "The Devanahalli-Kolar road spans a length of 50 kilometres and falls under the second phase of the state highway development project.

As part of this initiative, there is a proposal to construct a four or six-lane highway, stretching from Devanahalli to Vijayapura, H Cross, Vemagal, Malur, and ultimately reaching the Tamil Nadu border industrial area.

This project, estimated to cost Rs 1,826 crore, will be implemented under the highway annuity scheme. Currently, a detailed project report is in the process of being prepared to outline the specifics of this proposed infrastructure development."

Expanding the Devanahalli-Kolar highway to four lanes is poised to bring about significant developmental changes in the areas surrounding Devanahalli, Vijayapura, and north Bengaluru.

This infrastructure project holds the promise of catalysing economic growth, enhancing connectivity, boosting real estate development, and ultimately improving the overall quality of life for residents in these regions.

Sources said one of the primary benefits of widening the highway is the enhancement of infrastructure. A four-lane highway will alleviate traffic congestion, reduce travel times, and ensure smoother transportation of goods and people. This improved connectivity will not only benefit commuters but also facilitate the movement of goods, thereby stimulating trade and commerce in the region.

The expansion of the highway is expected to spur real estate development along its corridor. With improved connectivity, areas along the Devanahalli-Kolar stretch will become more attractive for investment in residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Developers anticipate increased demand for housing, office spaces, and retail establishments as accessibility improves.

This uptick in real estate activity is likely to create employment opportunities and contribute to the economic growth of the region. According to Nandeesh Gowda, a realtor, "The expansion of the Devanahalli-Kolar highway is a game-changer for the real estate market in this region.

We anticipate a surge in demand for properties as improved connectivity makes these areas more accessible and desirable for both residential and commercial purposes. Investors stand to benefit from the potential appreciation of property values in the long term."

As the highway upgrade facilitates easier access to Devanahalli, Vijayapura, and north Bengaluru, it is expected to attract new businesses, industries, and investments to the region.

This influx of economic activity will create job opportunities, stimulate entrepreneurship, and contribute to the overall prosperity of the local communities. Beyond economic benefits, the four-laning of the highway holds the promise of improving the quality of life for residents in the surrounding areas.

Additionally, enhanced connectivity can lead to better access to healthcare, education, and other essential services, further enriching the lives of residents.

Sreenivas K, a resident of Devanahalli, added, "The expansion of the highway is long overdue and much welcomed by the local community. It will not only ease traffic congestion but also open up opportunities for economic growth and development.

I believe this infrastructure upgrade will significantly enhance our quality of life and make our region more vibrant and connected. Overall, the four-laning of the Devanahalli-Kolar highway is poised to bring about multifaceted benefits for the areas in and around Devanahalli, Vijayapura, and north Bengaluru.

From improved infrastructure and real estate development to economic growth and an enhanced quality of life, this project is set to positively transform the region and create a more prosperous and connected community."

– Prakash VL

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Tech hub Bengaluru leads office leasing in Q3 2024

Bengaluru continues to dominate India's office space market, according to CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd has released its "CBRE India Office Figures Q3 2024" report. The city accounted for 30% of the total office leasing across India between January and September 2024.

In the July-September 2024 quarter, Bengaluru recorded 7.1 million sq ft of office leasing, with a supply of 3.4 million sq ft. Key sectors driving this growth included technology (21%), e-commerce (17%), and flexible space operators (15%). Major transactions in the city included a 1,074,200 sq. ft. lease by a leading e-commerce company.

Small-sized deals and non-SEZ dominance

Bengaluru's office space uptake during Q3 2024 was primarily driven by small-sized deals, with 90% of absorption occurring in the non-SEZ sector. The non-SEZ sector also contributed 82% of the city's total office supply. The report said that flexible space operators are becoming increasingly crucial in the office market.

Bengaluru witnesses surge in residential sales

Meanwhile, Knight Frank India's latest report, India Real Estate: Residential and Office Q3 2024, highlights Bengaluru as a major driver of India's commercial real estate market, with 5.3 million sq ft of office space transactions during the quarter. Bengaluru accounted for 28% of the total 19 million sq ft of transactions across the top eight cities, marking a remarkable 158% year-on-year (YoY) growth. This surge was driven by the expansion of Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in the city, as corporations continue to invest in long-term operations.

The report said, "GCCs dominated the leasing activity, accounting for 62% of the total office transactions in the city, marking a 383% YoY growth. India-facing businesses contributed 14% of the transactions, while flexible office spaces made up 12%, reflecting a 42% of YoY increase."

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Not really need of the hour: 24/7 operations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compulsory, and notices regarding these provisions must be prominently displayed at the establishment's main entrance.

The new regulations also require employers to provide essential amenities to employees, such as restrooms, washrooms, safety lockers, and other basic facilities. These measures are in accordance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, which mandates employers to set up internal complaints committees to ensure a safe working environment for women.

"Several studies have found that night shifts result in various health issues among workers, including even increasing the possibility of cancer.

The effort must be to reduce night shifts irrespective of gender. Previously, there was a prohibition on night shift working for women in the Factories Act, which was changed in the 2023 Karnataka amendment to the Act," said Avani Chokshi from the All Indian Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU).

She added that the notification also allows women to work night shifts, which she termed as an extension of exploitative practices against women workers.

"In the name of freedom, women are compelled to work at night. Consent taken from women workers to be employed at night would actually be an unfree choice, thus a travesty of justice. This is also part of the larger pattern of amending workers' rights, such as the eight-hour days, in the interest of ease of business/convenience. While Article 39(e) obligates the State to direct its policy towards ensuring that the health and strength of workers, men and women, are not abused, this notification is contrary to the same," she explained.

Other provisions

Other provisions of the notification include: Maximum working hours limited to eight hours per day and 48 hours per week, overtime provisions allow for up to 10 hours per day and 50 hours per week.

The government has cautioned that employers found to have employees working on designated holidays or beyond normal hours will face penal action. To ensure that every employee can take one day off per week on a rotational basis, employers are required to hire additional staff. Employee details must be displayed in the workplace, along with records of leave taken, to promote transparency.

Dr Anantha Padmanabha, Senior consultant, Internal medicine, Fortis Hospital spoke to BM about the health consequences of working night shifts.

"Working night shifts has health consequences, including increased risk of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and certain types of cancer. Disrupting the body's natural circadian rhythm can lead to sleep disorders, fatigue, digestive problems, and mood disturbances such as depression and anxiety. Additionally, night shifts can impair cognitive function, judgment, and motor skills, resulting in decreased productivity and increased risk of accidents. This disruption also affects melatonin production, the hormone regulating sleep-wake cycles, leading to further complications."

"To remain healthy, ideal working hours should align with the body's natural rhythm. Research suggests that working hours between 7-8 am and 3-4 pm are optimal, allowing for natural sunlight exposure, regular meal times, and sufficient sleep. A standard eight hour workday with regular breaks and a 30-60 minute lunch break can help maintain productivity and reduce stress," he added.

Citizens too have noted that since many commercial buildings have sprung up in residential areas, ignoring zonal regulations, the functioning of establishments 24/7 may cause law and order issues.

They have urged strict patrolling and enforcement of rules from police authorities to ensure noise levels remain to a minimum and safety of residents is made a priority.

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Ola case: High Court stays compensation, POSH probe order

Saying matter needs consideration, bench halts it till October 28, date of next hearing

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The High Court has temporarily halted an order issued by a single judge bench instructing ANI Technologies, the parent company of OLA Cabs, to compensate a woman who alleged sexual harassment by one of their drivers with a sum of Rs 5 lakh.

A vacation bench consisting of Justices SR Krishna Kumar and MG Uma said, "The matter requires consideration." The bench then issued a notice to the respondents, returnable on October 28, and ordered a stay on the previous order until the next hearing date.

On September 30, a single judge bench led by Justice MGS Kamal had directed the company's Internal Complaints Committee to conduct an investigation into the complaint, following the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Woman At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 [POSH Act]. The investigation must be completed within 90 days, and a report must be submitted to the District Officer.

The court had determined that under the POSH Act, the OLA driver would be considered an employee of the company. Senior Advocate Dhyan Chinnappa, representing the appellant, argued that since OLA does not directly employ the driver, the applicability of the PoSH Act in this case is questionable.

The petitioner alleged that she was subjected to sexual harassment in 2019, but her complaint to ANI Technologies, requesting action against the driver, was not addressed. As a result, the petitioner approached the high court, seeking a directive for the company to investigate her complaint.

Stick to 2017 notification: Demonetised notes can be exchanged

The High Court has instructed trial courts to adhere to the procedure outlined in the Centre's 2017 notification for releasing demonetised banknotes that were produced by investigating agencies on or before December 30, 2016. This will enable individuals to exchange the notes for legal tender.

In their order, a division bench comprising Justices S Sunil Dutt Yadav and Ramachandra D Huddar stated, "Unless there is adherence to the requirements of the notification strictly, parties to the litigation would be prejudiced irreparably without any lapse on their part. Accordingly, the investigating agencies and the Courts are to adhere to the requirements of the notification dated 12.05.2017 strictly."

The Union Ministry of Finance's notification from May 12, 2017, outlines that when specified Bank notes are confiscated by investigating agencies and deposited by the Court, the person who receives the notes from the Court may seek to exchange them for legal tender by producing the Court's direction. However, two conditions must be met to benefit from this notification. Firstly, the law enforcement agency must mention the serial numbers of the confiscated and/or produced notes. Secondly, the Court's direction enabling the litigant to request an exchange must include the serial numbers of the seized notes when permitting their return to the person involved in the case.

On September 30, a single judge bench had directed the company's Internal Complaints Committee to conduct an investigation into the 2019 complaint of sexual harassment

The court emphasised that investigating agencies and courts should take note of these directions to enable litigants to exchange the demonetized currency for legal tender. The order was passed while deciding an appeal filed by the Reserve Bank of India, which had challenged a single judge bench's order directing it to consider a representation made by an individual seeking to exchange certain bank notes.

Your Connect

personal

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I, Amrutha D/o Mohanbabu Kannan R/a at No 424, 4th A Cross, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043 I have changed my name to Amrutha Mohanbabu. Vide Affidavit dated on 04/10/2024 Sworn Before Notary B Seshagiri Bengaluru

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I, Srikanth.R.K. R/O Flat No 328, A2 Block, Sumadhura Mathrushree Residency, Thindlu Village, Blr-97 changed my name from Srikanth to Srikanth.R.K. for all future purposes.

I Srinivas Murthy B K S/o, Krishne Gowda S R/o Flat #110, Sgr Lavilla , Sarjapura Main Road, Doddkannahalli, Bangalore -35 have changed my name to Srinivasa Murthy B K for all purposes.

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I, SHAIKH SEEMEEN FAIZ, W/o Hussain Mohamad Chandrantooty R/o Flat No 1206, 12th Floor SHRS SMR Vinay Endeavour Hoodi Bengaluru -560048. I have changed my name to SEEMEEN HUSSAIN CHANDRANTOOTY vide affidavit dated: 03/10/2024 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bangalore.

I, G. K. Rajashekar R/O Flat No 13/3, 1st Main, 3rd cross, Vidyaranyapura, Blr-97 changed my name from Raj Shekher to G. K. Rajashekar. for all future purposes

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HSR Layout rape case: Chargesheet filed

A 555-page chargesheet has been filed against the main accused, Mukeshwaran (24), in the HSR Layout case on Friday. He faces charges under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for rape, marking a critical development in the investigation.

A 21-year-old final-year student was allegedly sexually assaulted by a bike-borne man in HSR Layout on August 18. She was returning after a party in Koramangala in her car, when she got involved in a minor accident. When her friend got into an argument with auto drivers, she decided to walk. A biker offered her a ride but instead took her to an isolated spot and allegedly assaulted her. —BMB

Transfer pleas: Top cop calls for discipline

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayanand issued a strong warning to police personnel on Friday regarding the frequent visits to his office about transfers. He expressed discontent over staff members coming repeatedly for transfer requests, emphasising that transfers would take place at the appropriate time.

The message was delivered during the monthly service parade held at the Adugodi CAR Grounds on Friday, where police personnel from various departments were in attendance. He cautioned that if staff members continued to disregard his advice, more stringent actions would be taken. —BMB

Bomb hoax mails to 3 city colleges

A bomb threat was received via email by three prominent educational institutions in Bengaluru: BMS. College of Engineering (BMSCE), Bangalore Institute of Technology (BIT), and MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT). The threat was reported at approximately 1 pm, prompting immediate action.

According to the police, these threats were sent to the college principals and in response to the threat, the bomb disposal squad, along with related teams, was deployed to investigate the situation. After verification of the authenticity of the threat, it was determined that the threat was a hoax.

A case has been registered at the Hanumanth Nagar Police Station to trace the source of the email. —BMB

Lokayukta prosecution advice neglected

The Karnataka Lokayukta's recommendation to prosecute 206 officials across 27 departments in various cases is awaiting government permission for months, officials said on Friday.

These officials include 65 in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, 40 in the Revenue Department and 25 in the Urban Development Department, official sources said.

"As on September 27, the number is 206 officials. These figures change over the period of time but the pendency is high in some departments," a top Lokayukta official told PTI.

"It's ironic. The government itself has not granted sanction against 206 officials in the various departments. These officials include those who amassed wealth disproportionate to their known source of income," the official said. —PTI

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Kakuro

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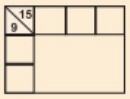

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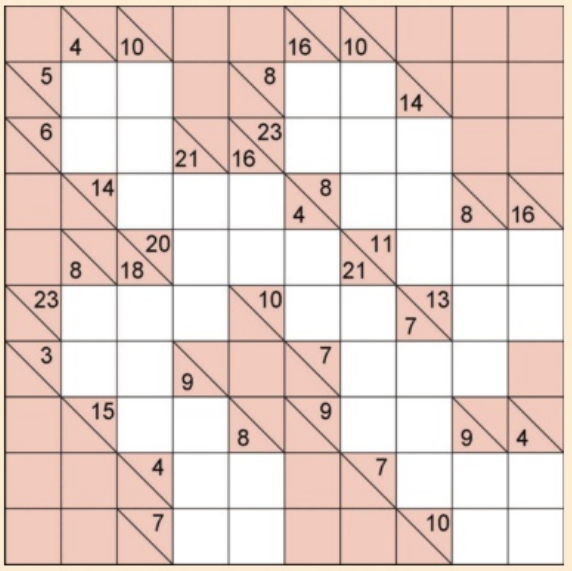

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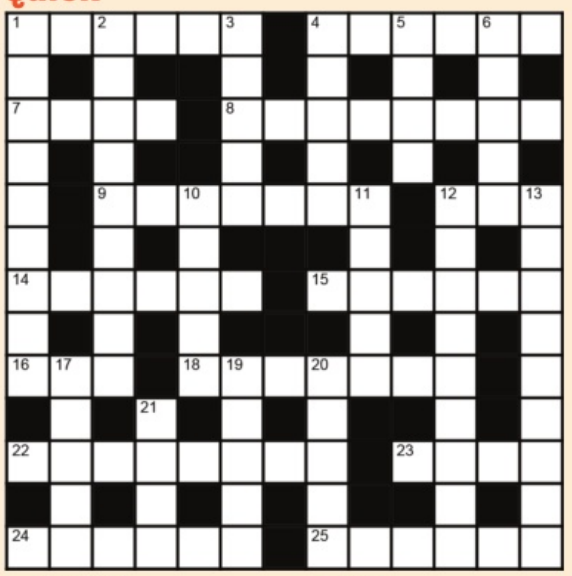

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1 Panic (6)
4 Truthful (6)
7 Musical instrument (4)
8 Outline (8)
9 Poison (7)
12 Cooking vessel (3)
14 In the same place (Latin word) (6)
15 Falls near Rajiv Gandhi National Park (6)
16 To pull hard (3)
18 Good-humoured hoax (3-4)
22 The Karate sticks? (8)
23 Eyelid problem (4)
24 Young swan (6)
25 Outlaw; robber (6)

DOWN

1 Impression made by a shoe (9)
2 Segregating or separating (9)
3 Discernment (5)
4 Capital of Vietnam (5)
5 Pinches or bites (4)
6 County of NW Eire (5)
10 Hard outer covering (5)
11 Second largest of Greek Ionian islands (5)
12 Inhabited or lived in (9)
13 Aggressive (9)
17 Excessive interest (5)
19 Glorify (5)
20 Exactly vertical (5)
21 Self-confident words (1,3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS I

SPI DAXG YGD'L XYDA. YL IUAGD'L YEKHURA XYLZ PWA.

Linemaro

If your heart were a prison, I would like to be sentenced for life

Mindchow

He who lives in harmony with himself lives in harmony with the universe

Joke of the day

Girl: You would be a good dancer except for two things.
Boy: What are the two things?
Girl: Your feet

Loop

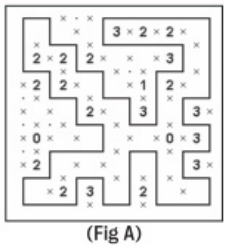
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

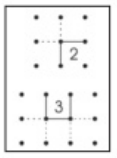
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

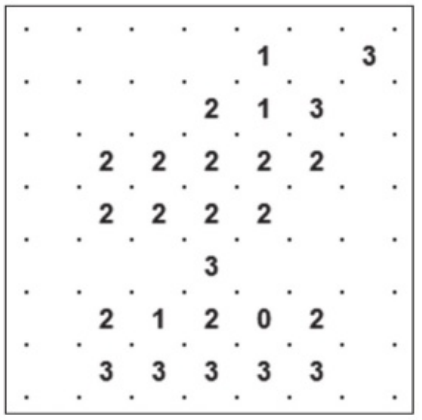
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



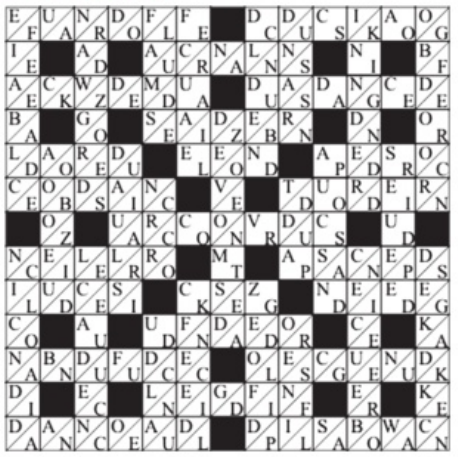
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



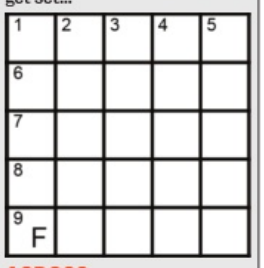
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

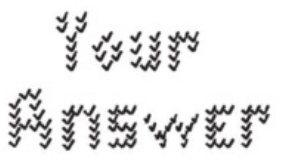
1 Asp do; 6 VE Net;
7 Co rig; 8 Lader;
9 Fur so

DOWN

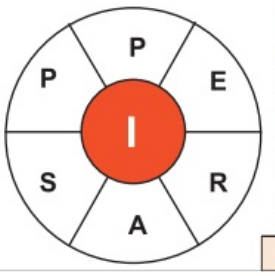
1 Faced; 2 OO Vol;
3 Drupe; 4 Re Nag;
5 Its SR

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

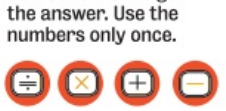
SudokuChallenge

9				3				2
8		4				3		5
	6		4		9		8	
1				6				3
			8		1			
5				4				9
	7		6		3		2	
3		5				9		4
6				8				7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 18
2 2 7 7

Medium = 7
1 6 7 8

Hard = 37
3 8 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Clipboard is longer. 2. Steering wheel is moved. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Side mirror on truck is missing. 5. Zipper is added. 6. Tie is different.

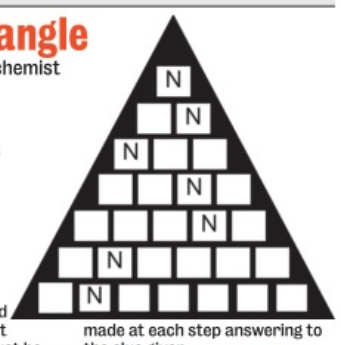
Riddler

In this teaser, you are given odd definitions of terms. The terms must be found, and they sound approximately like the names of U.S. states. Can you get all three?

1. What a certain spectator sport's spectators do
2. Doing 2,000 pounds of laundry
3. What to buy if you're only slightly thirsty

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 A's alternative
3 Burnsian refusal
4 All there
5 Acquires by work
6 Traps
7 Replies

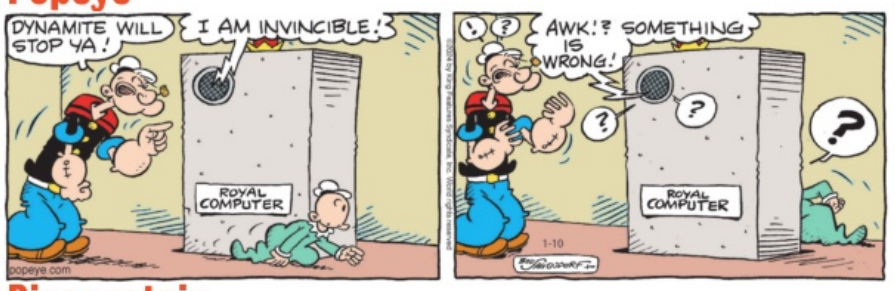


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

You might catch something if you had brought more than two worms.
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HOW DO I TELL MOM I NEED A RAZOR WITHOUT BEING TOO OBVIOUS?
AISLE 3
RAZORS ARE BUY ONE GET ONE FREE. WE SHOULD GET SOME.
I'M ALL SET. THANKS FOR LOOKING OUT, THOUGH.
B-BUT!! WHAT IF I NEED ONE?
WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE GET TO IT!
WE ARE AT THAT BRIDGE!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO YOUR GRAMPS'S GRILL LIGHTING CAN GET PRETTY EXPLOSIVE?
YEAH, HE'S IN KIND OF A COMPETITION WITH THE GUYS AT NASA TO SEE HOW FAST THEY CAN GET THEIR GRILLS TO LIGHT.
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MUST BE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT Y CHROMOSOME.
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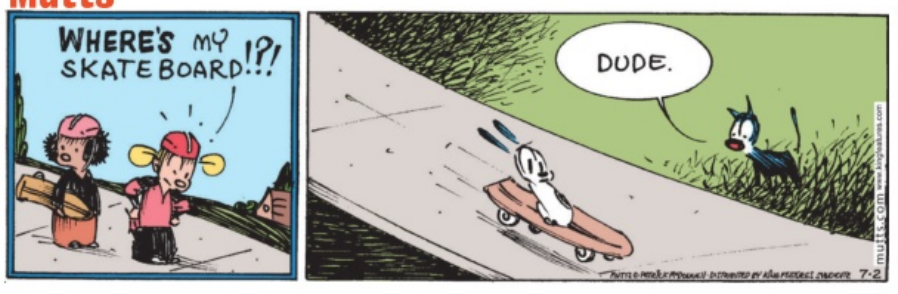
7-2

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon; your energy level is likely to be high. A new partnership may give you benefits. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the negative moon will make you upset. Sleeplessness will give you anxiety; it will affect your day-to-day routine. It is advised to avoid risky adventure tours and rash driving. You may also spend on worthless stuff; this might create negative energy around you. Overspending will also affect your savings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon; your small investments may convert into big profits. Your working efficiency may be increased now. You are likely to get success with less effort. You may also hear good news in legal matters. You may have full control over your opponents and rivals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may get tired due to overworking. It may make you lazy and careless, so you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have backache, nervous system, lever-related issues, and skin issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel better; situations may be under control. Your network may help you on the work front. You may also plan for overseas travel; this is a good time to increase the domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity, you may bring some artefacts or creative stuff for the family. You may also plan to watch movies or go on an outing with friends or family.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull due to lack of sleep. You may be scattered towards your goals, and this may affect your working efficiency. You may also plan to visit some religious places. But in the late evening, with your elders' blessings, you may find out your mistakes and may make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your creativity may be at its peak; you may plan to renovate your house or office and may buy some stuff. This may increase your social status. There is likely to be some harmony with the spouse; it creates harmony in the domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may be settled now. You may get good news in terms of litigation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you will be glad; you will be able to maintain a balance between your earnings and expenditures, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may also plan to visit elders or religious places.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may be more excited today. You may likely meet some old friends or be busy with social get-to-gethers. New innovations may be there in terms of business. Also, it may be likely to have some unexpected material gains. You may receive good news in terms of kids' academics. Lovebirds may enjoy their quality moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today until late afternoon, you may feel dull; this may reflect into your way of working. But with the help of the elder's blessings, you may likely come back to your speed. You may likely pay extra attention to your kid's health. You will be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors shall be careful while making difficult decisions. Stomach issues may make you upset.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be happy at work. You may likely make some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You may also plan for a short trip. Your subordinates may be likely to be cooperative. You may expect some good news in terms of a sibling's success. You may likely be in winning positions in legal matters also. Students may be more focused on achieving their targets.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your communication skills may help you on the professional front. You may likely be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you to speed up your projects. Lovebirds may be likely to exchange their views with each other, which may lay some foundation for their relationship.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
{9*(1/2 * 5/2)*1/5)*2}
= {9*(5/4)*(1/5)*2}
= 9*(1/4*2)
= 9*1/2
= 3

QUOTE UNCODE
Bad news isn't wine. It doesn't improve with age.

STRIKE OUT

F	A	R	O	F	F	C	U	C	K	O	O	B	I	T
E	A	U	R	A	L	S	I	S	O	W	N	E	A	L
E	C	Z	E	M	A	U	S	A	N	C	E	B	O	O
D	E	L	E	D	I	N	R	E	D	I	S	T	I	L
A	B	D	U	C	E	L	E	G	E	N	D	S	T	Y
C	A	U	N	D	E	R	C	A	L	L	E	G	P	U
I	D	E	S	K	E	G	N	I	D	E	T	U	L	L
C	E	L	L	O	T	P	A	C	E	D	I	R	U	P
E	O	S	I	N	V	T	U	R	I	N	R	O	O	T
L	O	R	D	L	E	D	P	E	S	O	A	R	S	E
B	O	E	I	D	E	R	B	O	W	N	S	T	O	G
F	A	N	N	E	A	L	D	I	S	O	W	N	C	Y

FAST FIVE

D	O	P	A	S
E	V	E	N	T
C	O	R	G	I
A	L	D	E	R
F	O	U	R	S

BULL'S EYE
APPRISE, arise, aspire, pair, pier, pipe, piper, praise, raise, ripe, rise, SAPPHIER, sepia, sire, spire

QUICK
1. What a certain spectator sport's spectators do: "tennis-see" (Tennessee), 2. Doing 2,000 pounds of laundry: "washington" (Washington) & 3. What to buy if you're only slightly thirsty: "mini-soda" (Minnesota)

MENSA PUZZLE
Check your answer

RIDDLER

9	5	7	1	3	8	6	4	2
8	1	4	2	7	6	3	9	5
2	6	3	4	5	9	7	8	1
1	4	8	9	6	5	2	7	3
7	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	6
5	2	6	3	4	7	8	1	9
4	7	1	6	9	3	5	2	8
3	8	5	7	1	2	9	6	4
6	9	2	5	8	4	1	3	7

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Nae, Sane, Earns, Snares, Answers.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 2 + 2 + 7 = 18
Medium
6 – 7 x 1 + 8 = 7
Hard
3 x 8 + 5 + 8 = 37

LOOP

KAKURO

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